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Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 06004 080704Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3423

S E C R E T TEHRAN 6004

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS SECDEF

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, IR
SUBU: LT.GEN. FISH'S JULY 3 AUDIENCE WITH THE SHAH

1. DURING HIS RECENT BRIEF VISIT TO IRAN DSAA DIRECTOR LTGEN FISH HAD AN AUDIENCE WITH THE SHAH JULY 3 LASTING ONE HOUR AND FIFTEEN MINUTES. VMOW GENERAL TOUFANIAN AND CHIEF, ARMISH-MAAG, MGEN MILES ALSO ATTENDED.

2. MOST OF THE MEETING WAS TAKEN UP BY A TOUR D'HORIZON BY SHAH OF GEO-POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE PERSIAN GULF, THE INDIAN OCEAN, AND THE HORN OF AFRICA. GENERALLY KNOWN VIEWS WERE EXPRESSED.

3. FOLLOWING POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE AREA WERE MENTIONED BY SHAH:
A) IIAF REQUIRES REPLACEMENT FOR THE F-4 IN THE MID TO LATE 1980S, AND TENTATIVE PLANNING DATA ON CANDIDATES, TO INCLUDE THE F-18A AND F-15A, IS REQUIRED. GENERAL TOUFANIAN WAS INSTRUCTED TO PREPARE A REQUEST FOR SUCH PLANNING DATA.
B) IIAF HAS A REQUIREMENT TO LIFT ONE ARMY DIVISION IN CASE OF A CONTINGENCY ON IRAN'S EASTERN
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BORDER. THE AMST APPEARS THE PRIME CANDIDATE TO MEET THIS REQUIREMENT. THE SHAH, HOWEVER, WOULD AWAIT THE US SELECTION PRIOR TO MAKING HIS DECISION.

4. FISH, IN REPLYING TO POINTS RAISED PARA 3(A), TOOK OCCASION TO STRESS FACT THAT F-4 WOULD REMAIN IN US INVENTORY UNTIL 1991 AND THAT THERE WAS NO

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CRASHING URGENCY FOR SHAH TO DECIDE ON REPLACEMENT SYSTEM AT THIS TIME. HE ATTEMPTED STEER GOI INTO STUDY OF REPLACEMENT PROPOSALS IN EFFORT FORESTALL ANY PEREMPTORY DECISIONS BY SHAH WHICH WOULD RESULT IN EMBASSY RECEIPT OF IMMINENT REQUEST FOR LETTER OF OFFER ON SYSTEM ARBITRARILY SELECTED BY GOI.

5. THE SHAH CONCLUDED THE MEETING BY STATING "THERE ARE NO FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS" BETWEEN THE US AND IRAN WITH RESPECT TO SECURITY ASSISTANCE ARRANGEMENTS. SULLIVAN

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